



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

June 13-14, 2014
Natural Resource Building, Room 172, Olympia, Washington

June 13-14, 2014 Regular Meeting

Commission:

Miranda Wecker, Chair
Brad Smith, Vice Chair
Rollie Schmitt
Conrad Mahnken
Larry Carpenter
Jay Kehne
Jay Holzmilller
Bob Kehoe

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Youth Council Member:

Michael Bervell

Attendance

Department Staff:

Phil Anderson, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Dan Budd
Clay Sprague
Craig Burley
Dayv Lowry
Jim Scott
Mike Livingston
Dave Price

Bob Sizemore
Betsy Peabody
Dr. Theresa Tsou
Adam Couto
Michael Ulrich
Phill Dionne

Public:

David Jennings	Linda Saunders	Tom Bugert	Gail Gatton
BJ Thorniley	Andy McGregor	Carl Chastain	Bruce Vandervort
Bruce Barnes	JR Robertson	Randy LeDuc	Francis Estalilla
Andrew Marks	Heath Heikkila	Randy O'Bryant	Leo Oates
David Beatty	Phil Taylor	Rance Block	Gordon Ruh
Steve Ewald	Troy Ewald	Dan Penttila	Mark Smith
Edward Barnes	Bob Lake	Mendy Harlow	Robert Sendry
Margaret Neuman	Josh Bouma	Betsy Bloomfield	Bethany Stervik
Joseph Bervell			

Friday, June 13, 2014

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

- Spring Chinook in the Wenatchee River
- Game Management Meetings
- Sinlahekin Celebration
- Billy Frank's Memorial Service

- Thanks to the Director for his work with Asotin County regarding Land Transactions
- Ken Chew Shellfish Laboratory/Hatchery
- Mock Commission Class at UW

b. Meeting Minute Approval

- April 11-12, 2014 – regular meeting

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten to approve the minutes from April 11-12, 2014 as presented. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Dan Pentilla – Smelt	Bruce Vandervort – Trapping
Bruce Barnes – Hoof Disease	Mark Smith – Hoof Disease
Edward Barnes – Hoof Disease	JR Robertson – Hoof Disease
Randy O’Bryant – Smelt	Randy LeDuc – Mayfield Lake Net Pens
Andrew Marks – Sportfisher Concerns	Francis Estalilla – Grays Harbor Issues
Heath Heikkila – Sportfisher Concerns	David Jennings – Smelt
Tom Bugert – Letter of Support for WA Wildlife and Recreation Program	

3. Director’s Report

The Director and Deputy Director briefed the Commission on the following items:

- Tribal Hunting Update
- Steelhead Lawsuit
- Annual Co-Managers Meeting
- Deschutes Watershed Project
- Sinlahekin Celebration
- Conservation Game Changer Award from Forterra
- Federal Budget Update
- Meet and Confer – Skokomish Tribe – Self Regulating
- Mayfield Lake Net Pens
- Wanapum Dam Update
- Wolf Update
- Community Outreach/Website
- Public Disclosure Requests
- Treaty and Non-Treaty Allocation in Puget Sound
- Elk Hoof Disease

4. Proposed Land Transactions – Briefing, Pulic Hearing and Decision

The Commission considered approval of three land transactions presented by Dan Budd, Real Estate Section Manager, Wildlife Program, for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement of public recreation opportunities, and responsible property management.

- Spring Grass Ranch – Okanogan County
- West Valley Fence – Yakima County

- Lehman Property – Okanogan County

No one signed up to provide public testimony.

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, to approve the proposed land transactions as presented. Motion passed.

5. Regional Fish Enhancement Groups – Briefing

Dave Price, Restoration Division Manager, Habitat Program, Colleen Thompson, Managing Director and Larry Zalaznik, President, of the Regional Fishery Enhancement Groups (RFEs); Jason Lindgren, Executive Director, Cascade Columbia Fishery Enhancement Group and Lance Winecka, Executive Director of South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, presented information on the RFE program, showcasing a variety of projects and programs from around the state. The briefing covered the program in general, community involvement, funding, leveraging, and took a closer look at project and program accomplishments in several different groups.

6. Cowiche Lands Acquisition – Briefing

Mike Livingston, Region 3 Director, as well as, Rance Block, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Betsy Bloomfield, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy briefed the Commission on the planned acquisition of 2900 acres in the Cowiche watershed in Yakima County and explained the partnership created to protect this shrub-steppe parcel.

7. Update on the Biological Status of the Pinto Abalone – Briefing

Bob Sizemore, Research Scientist, Fish Program; Josh Bouma and Betsy Peabody, Puget Sound Restoration Fund; and Scott Rumsey, NOAA briefed the Commission on the status of Pinto Abalone in regards to hatchery recovery program, population assessment, reasons for population decline, and ramifications of petition to list as a threatened or endangered species.

8. Puget Sound Smelt Fishery Regulation Proposals – Decision

Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager and Dayv Lowry, Research Scientist requested approval of one of three options for recreational and commercial smelt fishing regulations in Puget Sound.

The Commission voted to approve Option 2:

Reduce both commercial and recreational use: Commercial smelt fishing would be closed Sundays and would be allowed only from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday during seasonal openings in each area. Inactive commercial smelt fisheries, including dip bag and purse seine, which have not been in use for at least 10 years, would be closed. Recreational smelt fishing would be closed overnight except for the use of jig gear, which could be used seven days per week. Dip nets would be allowed for recreational use from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Tuesday.

The following amendments were also approved:

- Adds a new 60,000-pound annual quota for the Puget Sound commercial smelt fishery.
- Delegation of authority to the Director noting that any new information would be shared with the Commission and the issue would be revisited as needed.

9. Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan – Briefing

Dayv Lowry, Research Scientist and Dr. Theresa Tsou, Research Scientist provided the Commission with an evaluation of the implementation status for the Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan.

10. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), the Commission met in executive session to review the performance of a public employee. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend the executive session.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

11. Open Public Input

No one signed up to provide public input

NOTE: Discussions for Items 12 and 13 were combined

12. Strategic Planning and 13. 2015 Performance Agreement – Discussion

The Commissioners and Director discussed the Department’s strategic priorities for 2015 and the 2015 Performance Agreement Expectations.

14. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

- June 20, 2014 conference call was cancelled

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant